

Amendment to the Claims

8, 9, 12

Amend claims 1, 8-12, 14, 32, 92, and 98-100.

Cancel claims 4-7, 10-11, 75-91, 96, and 101-102.

Add claims 106 and 107.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An antibody ~~directed~~ that binds to a conformational epitope of a protein of Hepatitis C virus E2 protein of more than one genotype, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or binds to the same conformational epitopes [↓] as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An antibody ~~directed~~ that binds to a conformational epitope within amino acids 411 through 644 of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus 1b, wherein the antibody ~~is capable of binding~~ binds to the E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-5, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or binds to the same conformational epitopes as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-5, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) An antibody ~~directed~~ that binds to a conformational epitope within amino acids 470 through 644 of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus 1b, wherein the antibody is capable of binding to the E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein the antibody is CBH-4G or CBH-7, or binds to the same conformational epitopes as that bound by CBH-4G or CBH-7.

Claim 10-11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) An antibody ~~directed~~ that binds to the epitope recognized by CBH-2, -4D, -4B, -4G, -5, -7, -8C or -11.

Claim 13. (Previously amended) An antibody wherein the antibody competes with CBH-2, -4D, -4B, -4G, -5, -7, -8C, or -11 for binding to its epitope.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The antibody of claim 3 1 wherein the antibody inhibits binding of HCV E2 to CD81.

Claim 15. (Original) A cell line expressing the antibody of claim 1.

Claim 16. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a B cell line.

Claim 17. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a human cell line.

Claim 18. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a mammalian cell line.

Claim 19. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a eukaryotic cell line.

Claim 20. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a hybridoma.

Claim 21. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line has been transformed with Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).

Claim 22. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line has been infected with a virus.

Claim 23. (Original) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line has ~~been infected with~~ IgG genes derived from a phage library.

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The antibody of claim 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) The antibody of claim 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The antibody of claim 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

Claim 28. (Original) The antibody of claim 1 wherein the antibody is a mammalian antibody.

Claim 29. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 30. (Previously amended) A method of treating or preventing HCV infection in a patient, the method comprising steps of:

providing a patient infected with HCV or susceptible to HCV infection; and
administering to the patient the antibody of claim 1.

Claim 31. (Original) A method of treating a patient exposed to HCV, the method comprising steps of:

providing a patient exposed to HCV; and
administering to the patient the antibody of claim 1.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30 or 31 wherein in the step of

administering, ~~the antibody comprises administering~~ more than one ~~different~~ antibody is administered, wherein ~~at least one of the antibodies is~~ are directed to a conformational epitope^s of a protein of Hepatitis C virus.

Claims 33-91. (Canceled)

currently?

Claim 92. (Previously amended) A combination of two or more antibodies ~~directed that~~

^{bind} ~~binds~~ to two or more different conformational epitopes of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein the antibodies are selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or ^{bind} binds to the same conformational epitopes

as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

Claim 93. (Previously amended) The combination of claim 92, wherein the combination shows increased total binding of the combined antibodies to E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus compared to either antibody individually.

Claim 94. (Canceled)

Claim 95. (Previously amended) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-4G.

Claim 96. (Canceled).

Claim 97. (Previously amended) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-17.

Claim 98. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the combination of claim 92, 93, ~~94~~, 95, ~~96~~, or 97 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 99. (Currently amended) A method of treating or preventing HCV infection in a patient, the method comprising steps of:

providing a patient infected with HCV or susceptible to HCV infection; and

administering to the patient the combination of claim 92, 93, ~~94~~, 95, ~~96~~, or 97.

Claim 100. (Currently amended) A method of treating a patient that has been exposed to HCV, the method comprising steps of:

providing a patient that has been exposed to HCV; and

administering to the patient the antibody of claim 92, 93, ~~94~~, 95, ~~96~~, or 97.

Claim 101-102. (Canceled)

Claim 103. (Previously added) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-5.

Claim 104. (Previously added) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-2.

Claim 105. (Previously added) The combination of claim 93, wherein each antibody in the combination is directed to a different epitope.

Claim 106. (New) An antibody directed to a conformational epitope of a protein of Hepatitis

✓ C virus E2 protein, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-4B and CBH-4D.

107. (New) A combination of two or more antibodies directed to two or more different

✓ conformational epitopes of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus, wherein the antibodies are selected from the group consisting of CBH-4B, CBH-4D, CBH-4G, and CBH-7.